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Dated: July 29, 2003

Signature: *Susan Hunter*

(Susan Hunter)

Docket No.: HO-P01899US2
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Huda Y. Zoghbi

Application No.: 09/585,645

Group Art Unit: 1636

Filed: June 1, 2000

Examiner: Qian, Celine X.

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE
THERAPEUTIC USE OF AN ATONAL-
ASSOCIATED SEQUENCE FOR DEAFNESS,
OSTEOARTHRITIS AND ABNORMAL CELL
PROLIFERATION

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AMENDMENTS AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 20, 2003

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the Office Action dated May 20, 2003. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and the requisite fee are filed herewith.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-39. (Previously Cancelled)

40. (Previously Amended) A method of generating hair cells for an animal, comprising delivering directly to an inner ear a therapeutically effective amount of an atonal-associated nucleic acid sequence to a cell of said animal, wherein hair cells develop in the ear of said animal and wherein said atonal-associated nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that has hair cell generating activity, has at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:58, and comprises at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:70, wherein upon said delivering step said hair cell is generated.

41. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said atonal-associated nucleic acid sequence is Math1.